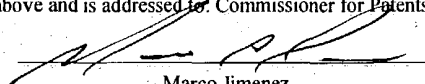


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Marco Jimenez

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Takayuki TOSHIMA, et al

Serial No.: Unknown

Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

For: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD
AND APPARATUS

Examiner: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Parent Serial No. 09/628,235

Parent Filing Date: July 28, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

The Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following Amendment before fees are calculated for the above-identified continuation patent application and before examination on the merits commences.

The present application claims priority from Japanese patent application no. 11-216675, filed on July 30, 1999; 11-323869, filed November 15, 1999; 11-354800, filed December 14, 1999; 2000-000982, filed January 6, 2000; 2000-015816, filed January 25, 2000; and 2000-119249, filed April 20, 2000. All papers and documents required to make the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f) were submitted in the parent case (U.S. Serial No. 09/628,235) on January 22, 2001.